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8 MR. BROWN: Our next speaker is Kay Mack.

9 MS. MACK: Thank you.

10 MR. BROWN: You're welcome.

11 MS. MACK: Before I start reading my
12 prepared comments, I wanted to say that I've been a
13 member or a resident of Colorado, the State of Colorado
14 for 16 years. I am a member of the League of Women
15 Voters, a volunteer at several peace organizations, and
16 a retired medical administrator, a staffer.

17 I also want to say that I read several
18 well researched books in which the author describes the
19 mental states that the people who developed the bomb
20 and plutonium were able to maintain while they did
21 their work. And there was an tremendous amount of
22 concentration on the specifics at hand, and sort of a
23 loosening or a moving away from paying attention to the
24 overall general picture.

25 Is this too close?

1 MR. BROWN: No, that's fine.

2 MS. MACK: So my comments are in the area
3 of general comments, and general contextual feelings
4 and thinking about this issue.

5 In today's sci-fi world, a holiday --
6 Hollywood script writer evolved a hot story plot.
7 Leaders of a blue-green planet made of plutonium
8 substance so lethal it would kill life within seconds.

9 During Pu's normal life span minuscule
10 bits of it could cause cancers, deaths and attack gene
11 pools for 12,500 human generations.

12 Over 50 years, little notice was given to
13 the thousands of tons of Pu waste accumulating,
14 leaking, escaping. Once manufactured, there was no
15 really safe way of containing Pu or Pu-laced waste.

16 Soon life on the plant became enmeshed in
17 a death march with Pu leading. Some leaders and
18 citizens refused to notice; they were too busy
19 marching.

20 In spite of growing numbers of protest
21 voices, political, military, and business, leaders
22 continued, almost unabated, to test, refine, produce,
23 and use Pu and Pu-generated power. Some Pu had
24 already escaped irredeemably into groundwaters,
25 aquifers, soils and air.

1 Because of political pressures, ethnic
2 opportunism, inadequate science, weak-kneed economic
3 strategies and continually reworded, renegotiated
4 political and environmental guidelines and standards,
5 many leaders chose not to consider the less expensive,
6 less deadly ways of dealing with the Pu wastes, which
7 were to keep Pu waste at or as near as feasible to
8 their sites of origin, to put them in State of the art
9 containers and in places where they could be watched,
10 monitored, retrieved for further treatment to safer
11 states as technology evolved. Instead, Congress
12 ordered, and military and power plant leaders demanded
13 Pu wastes to be buried, an out-of-sight, out-of-mind
14 state, which left them free to keep making more Pu and
15 more.

16 In order to do that, some of the tons,
17 tons of high-level Pu wastes were to be put in
18 capsules surrounded by a type of concrete not
19 adequately tested for crush, crash, and fire safety,
20 then hauled mostly from northwestern, northern, eastern
21 and southern states to southwestern states.

22 Seventy-nine thousand truckloads would
23 roll over millions of highway miles through forty-three
24 home states, threading through fields, cities,
25 industries, schools, hospitals, and possible DNA

1 pathways of 50 million people through most of their
2 lifetimes, 50 years or more. Report projections
3 admitted there would be accidents.

4 Economies, infrastructures, and general
5 communities could be heavily maimed or devastated.
6 Training for emergency crews, medical professionals,
7 hospitals, was woefully lacking. Put simply, there was
8 no way to reverse to make safe Pu invaded soils,
9 waters, air, living things.

10 Tons of Pu wastes were to be dumped, some
11 in New Mexico, the most dangerous in Nevada's Yucca
12 Mountain in sacred grounds taken from the Western
13 Shoshones.

14 It was also a geological site already
15 cracked from an earthquake and volcanic action, an area
16 increasingly sponged with seeping water and 100 miles
17 of planned dump tunnels.

18 Impossibly, the dump site was ordered to
19 be made, quote, unquote, safe for 10,000 years. Some
20 leaders tried to renegotiate those guarantees for
21 several hundred years, even one hundred years. Was it
22 because they knew that those Pu wastes would become
23 land mines virtually forever? Did they remember that
24 seeping waters mixed with leaking Pu containers could
25 explode, or leach deadly contamination into water,

1 soil, the food cycle, life? Did some of them remember
2 that exploded Pu from that very area 40 to 50 years
3 before had produced fallout on almost all states, even
4 as far away as Montana and New York?

5 If the Yucca dump site opened, radioactive
6 PLU payload trucks would relentlessly and ruthlessly
7 crisscross 43 states, north, south, east, west,
8 together, and Colorado, especially including the
9 capitol area, they would become most marvelous target
10 sites for the grim reaper.

11 Where were the leaders? Citizens with
12 enough moral and political courage to stop manufacture
13 and use of Pu, stop Pu wastes from coursing the
14 arteries of their great states, their great planet,
15 those great people who would stop devastating
16 themselves and their lifelines of gene pools, soils,
17 water, air.

18 The script ended there. Hollywood did not
19 accept it, and critiqued it as being far too real for
20 sci-fi. Thank you.